

INFORMATION LETTER

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FRENCH TRADE AGREEMENT

New Duties, Effective on June 15th, Will Be Announced May 13th

The trade agreement with France, which has been under negotiation for many months, has been signed by the Secretary of State and the French Ambassador. It will become effective on June 15th, this year, and continue in force until July 1, 1937, after which it will continue indefinitely subject to termination by either country on six months' notice. The text of the agreement will be made public on May 13th and details will be printed in the INFORMATION LETTER for May 16th.

In addition to duty concessions and quota increases by France and duty concessions by the United States, the State Department announces that the agreement provides for substantial most-favored-nation treatment by each country of the commerce of the other.

SOCIAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

Rhode Island Enacts Law—Other States Amend Their Statutes

The past few weeks have seen marked developments in the field of state legislation. On April 30 the legislature of Rhode Island enacted an unemployment compensation law bringing to a total of thirteen the number of such laws now in force. This law, which applies to all employers of four or more during twenty weeks of the year, provides for a pooled fund. The tax is effective January 1, 1936, and employers will contribute at the rate of nine-tenths of 1 per cent in 1936, 1½ in 1937, and 2¼ in 1938 and thereafter. The Act also provides for employee contributions which begin in 1937 at a rate of 1 per cent of all wages up to \$3,000. In 1938 and thereafter the rate is 1½ per cent.

The laws of Alabama and Massachusetts have recently been amended. Among other changes the exempted employments in the Massachusetts law were amended to conform to the Federal Act. Services on relief projects, on a commission basis as an independent agent, or as a share fisherman, or on home work or piece work are no longer exempted from the Act.

On April 29th the Senate of the State of South Carolina passed a bill providing for an unemployment compensation system in that State. This bill is now pending before the House of Representatives of that State.

Reports and Contributions

The first reports and payments under the New York law are due May 15th. A case involving the constitutionality of this law is now pending before the Supreme Court of the United States and it is suggested that all pay-

ments be made under protest. The Treasury Department of the United States has assured New York officials that all New York deposits in the Unemployment Compensation trust fund will be returned in the event the decision of the Supreme Court is adverse to the validity of the Act.

The first reports and contributions under the laws of Indiana and Oregon are due May 20th. Regular contributions are currently due in the District of Columbia, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin.

Tariff Investigation Applications Dismissed

The U. S. Tariff Commission has denied and dismissed without prejudice applications filed in April, 1935, for an investigation of the rates of duty upon orange, grapefruit, lemon and other fruit peel, and citron or citron peel, candied, crystallized or glace, or otherwise prepared or preserved.

WHAT'S DOING IN CONGRESS

Wheeler Bill Passes Senate—Measure Making Relief Appropriations Introduced

The Senate has been marking time until the tax bill is ready for consideration and the House had little of importance to work on until the deficiency bill carrying the relief appropriation was introduced on the 7th. The Senate passed the Wheeler Federal Trade Commission Bill, but otherwise no definite action was taken during the week on bills of interest to canners.

Tax Bill

The Senate Finance Committee announced the conclusion of hearings on the tax bill on the 9th and there is talk of having the bill ready for consideration on the floor within a week. It may take longer. Opposition to excise taxes is on the increase among Senators, and it is now more doubtful than ever that such levies can be written into the bill as suggested by the President. Modification of the House surplus rates is much talked of, but for the time being such talk is merely guesswork.

Federal Trade Commission Bill

The Wheeler-Rayburn Bill (S. 3744) to amend Sections 4, 5, 6, and 9 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, having passed the Senate with practically no opposition, is now awaiting action in the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

The bill as it passed the Senate extends the scope of the Commission by making unlawful "unfair or deceptive acts and practices" in interstate commerce, whereas the present Act prohibits only "unfair methods of competition." The Commission would thus be able to restrain acts and practices that deceive and defraud the public generally without, as heretofore, being obliged to prove that competitors of the offender have suffered monetary damage.

Another amendment is aimed at preventing the delays that the Commission has had to contend with in the past. It sets 60 days as the limit within which the person proceeded against may make application to the circuit court of appeals to set aside an order of the Commission. A further amendment provides that when the 60-day period had elapsed, if application to the court has not been made, the Commission's order shall become final.

An amendment to Section 6 includes persons and partnerships within the Commission's power to investigate business practices and conditions. The present Act includes only corporations. All three are included in Section 5 of the present Act, which confers the power to prevent unfair methods of competition.

As originally introduced the Wheeler Bill contained a provision extending the inquisitorial powers of the Commission, as follows:

"The Congress hereby confers upon the Commission so much of the auxiliary power of Congress to obtain information in aid of legislation as may be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out the provisions of Section 6."

This provision is no longer in the bill, having been removed by a committee amendment as the result of considerable pressure both from within Congress and from outside interests.

The fate of the bill in the House is not altogether certain, although most observers seem agreed that there will be considerable difficulty in getting action before adjournment. A meeting of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee will be held in a few days to determine general policy, after which a subcommittee will be appointed to handle the bill.

Studies of the Fishery Industry

The House has passed a bill (H. R. 8055) to "provide for economic studies of the fishery industry, market news service and orderly marketing of fishery products." The work would be carried on by an economic research section to be set up in the Bureau of Fisheries, and would be similar to economic services now rendered the farmer by the Department of Agriculture. The Senate Commerce Committee is said to favor the bill but before approving it has sent it to the Director of the Budget for his opinion as to how it fits in with the President's financial program. The cost of the proposed service is estimated at \$200,000 a year.

In the House a resolution has been introduced (H. Res. 500) to authorize the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee to make inquiry into the condition and trend of the fishery industry, including "the production, processing, warehousing, transportation, marketing, distribution, and handling of fishery products; the financing of the fishery industry; the improvement and restocking of the waters of the United States with fish, commercial and game; the conservation of our fishery resources; the dissemination of useful information to persons engaged in the industry and others; foreign competition and demand for fishery products; and such other phases as the said committee and any subcommittee thereof may deem pertinent to enable the committee to make recommendations or propose legislation for the general benefit and improvement of the fisheries, the fishery industry and persons engaged therein or allied therewith."

At first glance the resolution would seem to overlap in some respects the scope of H. R. 8055, but it is explained that

the resolution is intended only to enable the members of the committee to make a first-hand study of the industry, which they will do by visiting the fishing centers and interviewing those who are in a position to throw some light on the causes of present conditions, which the committee understands to be deplorable. In this way the members hope to acquire sufficient knowledge of the subject to legislate intelligently at the next session. The authorization does not extend beyond the end of the present calendar year.

Status of Other Bills

COPELAND BILL.—The bill to amend the Food and Drugs Act (S. 5) is still in the hands of a subcommittee of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. Considerable pressure is being exerted to have it reported out.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS BILL.—The Healey-Walsh Bill (H. R. 11554) was tabled by a vote of 12 to 5 in the House Judiciary Committee. Efforts will continue to have it reconsidered, without apparently much chance of success. It is understood that refusal of sponsors to include a regional wage-differential provision was one reason for the shelving of the measure.

PRICE-DISCRIMINATION BILLS.—The House Rules Committee has to date taken no steps to permit early consideration of the Robinson Bill, recently passed by the Senate. Lack of administration support is rumored as the cause of the delay, but it is generally assumed that the bill will be brought up when the House has finished consideration of the Deficiency Bill, which carries the billion and a half for relief and half a billion for the Social Security Act.

TEXTILE N. R. A.—The Ellenbogen Bill (H. R. 12285) was reported favorably to the House on May 6th, but will probably not be considered until the Supreme Court passes on the Guffey Coal Act.

PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS BILL.—The bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act (S. 1424) is still before the House Agricultural Committee, where it is expected that a subcommittee will meet during the week of May 11th to consider what action is to be taken.

LONG-AND-SHORT-HAUL BILL.—The bill to amend the Interstate Commerce Act (H. R. 3263) has not been acted upon in committee in the Senate since it passed the House.

ANTI-BASING POINT BILL.—The Wheeler Bill to abolish the basing-point pricing system (S. 4055) is still in committee and interest in it seems to have subsided since the inclusion of a similar provision in the Patman Price-Discrimination Bill.

TYDINGS FAIR TRADE BILL.—The bill (S. 3822) providing that minimum price agreements are not to be deemed illegal if legal within the states where sales are made is still in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was rumored that it would be added to the Robinson Price-Discrimination Bill as an amendment, but the move did not materialize. The bill is not likely to be acted upon at this session.

BLACK AND CONNERY 30-HOUR BILLS.—The bills (S. 87 and H. R. 7198) to establish a working week of five 6-hour days will not be further considered by this Congress.

O'MAHONEY LICENSING BILL.—The bill to license corporations engaged in interstate commerce and to prescribe labor standards in such licenses (S. 3363) is not to be acted upon.

SARDINE-REDUCTION BILLS.—No action has been taken since the joint hearings on the various bills to restrict the reduction or processing of sardines off the West Coast.

WATER POLLUTION BILL.—The Lonergan Bill (S. 3958) is still before the Caraway subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee, and there may be some announced action within a few days.

Chinch Bug Infestation Survey

Results of a recent chinch bug infestation survey are reported in a supplement to the March 16, 1936, issue of the Insect Pest Survey. A map is included in which the numbers of chinch bugs are classified as (1) scant to moderate, injury likely only if 1936 season is favorable; (2) abundant, some injury likely if 1936 season is average; (3) very abundant, injury likely even if 1936 season is unfavorable. Copies of the supplement may be obtained from the Insect Pest Survey, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Forecast of Bacterial Wilt Incidence

The second experimental forecast of this disease, discussed in the April 1, 1936, issue of the Plant Disease Reporter, applies to the northeastern United States, including eastern Ohio and northern Virginia, where regular surveys have been

made for the last five years. It is, of course, purely experimental and is designed to test the theory which has been advanced that the prevalence of bacterial wilt in this area in any given growing season is correlated with the temperature during the preceding winter. Copies of the publication may be obtained from the Division of Mycology and Disease Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot shipments as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

VEGETABLES	Week ending May 2		Week ending April 25		Total for season through May 2	
	1935	1936	1935	1936	1935	1936
Beans, snap and lima	508	305	310		6,494	4,958
Tomatoes	952	577	469		9,894	7,480
Green peas	183	456	348		2,338	2,765
Spinach	278	218	221		5,070	7,140
Others:						
Domestic, competing directly	5,494	6,344	4,224		162,558	157,703
Imports competing—						
Directly	19	4	8		578	879
Indirectly	5	3	9		1,091	1,849
FRUITS						
Citrus, domestic	2,776	3,178	3,070		93,034	83,316
Imports	20	17	18		301	498
Others, domestic	1,091	906	565		21,399	18,625

Canned Food Exports in March

Articles	Month of March				January-March			
	1935	Value	1936	Value	1935	Value	1936	Value
Canned meats, total	1,549,317	\$546,925	1,314,264	\$379,444	3,935,349	\$1,345,596	3,163,009	\$946,851
Beef	294,703	97,291	182,318	53,433	779,216	259,127	517,740	150,144
Pork	1,046,242	398,085	724,496	235,808	2,663,705	976,331	1,927,436	622,121
Sausage	126,110	32,385	142,696	38,472	270,616	66,504	299,110	81,824
Other	82,262	19,164	264,754	51,731	221,812	43,634	422,723	92,762
Canned vegetables, total	1,637,204	142,084	2,050,837	177,502	5,653,561	519,761	6,233,661	564,681
Asparagus	339,513	44,081	459,064	62,090	1,909,884	233,175	1,999,997	260,941
Baked beans and pork and beans	422,567	22,242	516,358	26,985	1,123,182	58,213	1,274,715	66,847
Corn	111,281	9,562	180,114	13,769	365,151	32,366	493,097	36,573
Peas	151,331	12,360	217,037	16,652	449,401	39,344	604,204	47,931
Soups	180,036	19,092	210,473	22,002	447,411	54,194	452,433	46,731
Tomatoes	198,859	14,019	86,689	6,301	630,734	39,103	364,587	24,078
Other	233,617	20,728	381,102	29,703	727,798	63,366	1,044,628	81,580
Condensed milk	842,129	108,232	229,477	26,862	1,940,692	250,321	634,023	81,688
Evaporated milk	4,881,572	326,308	2,463,295	177,232	10,202,175	681,069	6,991,833	499,838
Canned fruits, total	17,622,132	1,314,242	25,185,077	1,724,459	61,809,631	4,512,955	78,995,801	5,461,169
Apples and applesauce	548,905	23,373	1,582,141	64,380	2,618,947	115,303	5,568,919	237,206
Apricots	269,260	23,242	1,113,541	78,891	1,423,841	122,355	4,184,546	303,380
Berries, other	27,321	3,480	42,025	5,214	106,686	11,731	246,800	26,788
Cherries	86,145	9,954	89,364	11,448	279,534	31,960	315,970	40,159
Fruits for salad	2,472,831	274,022	2,213,938	227,153	6,959,973	759,246	6,415,734	682,929
Grapefruit	4,785,840	278,419	3,976,116	238,125	16,587,994	940,991	13,648,708	836,585
Loganberries	119,517	8,332	16,737	1,493	967,944	68,938	486,130	34,558
Peaches	2,801,868	209,778	8,897,234	559,525	9,059,065	668,948	24,920,346	1,589,131
Pears	5,264,584	391,284	5,194,254	365,505	20,545,276	1,524,444	17,392,970	1,220,561
Pineapple	1,072,640	76,533	1,694,518	142,107	2,523,698	200,226	4,743,525	401,499
Prunes	33,392	3,102	365,209	30,618	185,290	18,317	1,072,153	88,373
Other	139,829	12,723			551,383	49,496		
Canned fish, total	3,965,127	1,191,692	7,322,713	699,362	26,590,026	2,086,070	22,119,300	2,163,686
Mackerel	193,653	9,708	19,917	1,255	928,789	44,195	182,727	10,298
Salmon	6,750,612	932,780	2,195,768	390,770	16,255,036	2,164,229	7,187,226	1,229,314
Sardines	2,609,203	181,646	4,722,437	241,193	8,440,697	528,182	13,433,695	708,320
Shrimp			274,980	45,436			1,048,226	169,051
Shellfish, other	398,426	58,310	85,796	16,360	717,278	116,356	198,332	34,910
Other	80,233	9,248	23,815	4,348	248,226	33,108	69,094	11,793

Unsold Stocks of Salmon on April 30th

The following statistics on unsold stocks of salmon on April 30, 1936, compiled by the Association of Pacific Fisheries, are based on reports from 72 companies producing approximately 98 per cent of the 1935 pack. The comparative figures for a year ago were based on returns from practically all the salmon canners, and therefore included virtually 100 per cent of the pack in 1934.

Grades or varieties	Talls (1 pound) Cases	Flats (1 pound) Cases	Halves (8 doz.) Cases	Total April 30, 1936 Cases	Total March 31, 1936 Cases	Total April 30, 1935 Cases
Chinooks or Kings:						
Fancy Red	1,256	9,738	27,867	38,861	38,341	75,124
Standard	1,376	5,678	10,635	17,689	18,369	43,918
Pale	3,663	.....	323	3,986	2,533	511
White	404	340	64	808	2,658	1,680
Puget Sound Sockeyes	12,755	246	67,992	80,993	80,290	117,951
Alaska Reds	196,979	4,597	26,896	228,472	269,397	810,057
Coho's, Silvers, Medium Reds	20,554	20,279	13,277	54,110	61,098	94,679
Pinks	881,599	2,462	35,786	919,847	1,122,740	994,801
Chums	166,097	.....	6,858	172,955	218,108	106,263
Bluebacks .....	.....	.....	1,363	1,363	1,580	1,990
Steelheads	556	1,727	4,021	6,304	5,996	8,259
Total	1,285,239	45,067	195,082	1,525,388	1,821,110	2,255,233

TREATY WITH GUATEMALA

Duties Reduced on Various Canned Foods Imported from United States

Provisions of the reciprocal trade agreement between the United States and Guatemala were announced by the State Department on May 4th. It is the twelfth such agreement, and the seventh with a Latin American country, to be concluded under the Trade Agreements Act of 1934.

The agreement provides for reciprocal tariff benefits, and like other agreements already negotiated provides for unconditional most-favored-nation treatment. It is necessary for the Guatemalan legislature to ratify the agreement and it will become effective 30 days after proclamation by the president of Guatemala.

The agreement provides for reduction in the Guatemalan duty, or for the duty to be bound during the life of the agreement, on the following canned products:

Meats: Present duty of 30 cents per gross kilo is bound.

Salmon, mackerel, tuna, shellfish: Duty is reduced from 30 cents to 15 cents per gross kilo.

Sardines: Duty is reduced from 15 cents to 7½ cents per gross kilo.

Fruits and vegetables: Present duty of 30 cents per gross kilo is bound.

Evaporated and condensed milk: Present duty of 15 cents per gross kilo is bound.

The kilo equals 2.2046 pounds, and the rates of duty have been converted from Guatemalan currency to United States currency on the basis of the quetzal being equivalent to \$1.00.

The United States will impose no duty on bananas or coffee imported from Guatemala. Among other Guatemalan products on which the United States will reduce import duties are: Honey, from 3 cents per pound to 2 cents; mango and guava pastes and pulps, from 35 per cent ad valorem to 28 per cent; prepared or preserved guavas, from 35 per cent ad valorem to 17½ per cent; pineapples, from 50 cents per crate or 1½ cents each to 35 cents per crate or ⅓ cent each.

Control of Garden Insects in Utah

The Experiment Station at Logan, Utah, has just issued mimeographed Circular No. 112 which suggests treatments for insects prevalent in that state and indicates the best time for treatment. Directions for use of various insecticides are included. Copies of the statement may be had upon application to the Division of Publications, Agricultural Experiment Station, Logan, Utah.

Leaflet on Pitted Red Cherries

With this week's issue of the INFORMATION LETTER is mailed a leaflet on Pitted Red Cherries, the latest in the series of popular leaflets prepared by the Association's Home Economics Division.

Agricultural Reports Available

The cost of production of sweet potatoes is the subject of a mimeographed report obtainable from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Other recent reports are: "Marketing Western New York Celery, 1935 Season"; "Car-lot Shipments of Fruits and Vegetables, 1935"; "List of Publications Prepared by the Grain Division"; "Seed Statistics."

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